The Melville Society NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN, 1958

Volume XIV Number 3

The annual meeting of the Society will be held in the Hartford Room of the Hotel Statler, New York City, on Sunday, December 28, from 11:30 to 12:45 o'clock. Note that the hour of our meeting has been changed in order to avoid a conflict with other activities of the MLA convention.

President Wilson Heflin announces that the theme of this year's program will be *Billy Budd*. A panel discussion is planned, the panelists to be Rear Admiral John D. Hayes (USN-ret), Norman Holmes Pearson, and Harrison Hayford—with possibly one other person. Members of the Society who have questions which they would like to have answered by the panel should address them before the meeting to Wilson Heflin, English Department, U. S. Naval Academy.

One important matter of business for our meeting will be the election of a permanent secretary. The present acting secretary retires at the end of this month. Members may wish to choose another acting secretary to serve until Howard Horsford's return from Italy or start a new permanent secretary off with a regular three-year term. An additional member of the executive committee is also to be elected.

For the record, the present members of the executive committee are Nathalia Wright (1958), Howard C. Horsford (1959), Laurence Barrett (1960), Wilson L. Heflin (1961), and Tyrus Hillway (1962). The next member elected to the committee will serve a five-year term ending in 1963. During the present year Wilson Heflin is president of the Society and Tyrus Hillway acting secretary (since the resignation of Howard Horsford). Laurence Barrett is scheduled to assume the presidency in 1959.

ANNUAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

As of this writing, the Melville bibliography for 1952-1957 which was mentioned in the summer issue still has not appeared, but there is every expectation that it will be available shortly. The Society owes a tremendous vote of thanks to Stuart Sherman and his committee for this important contribution to scholarship.

FOUNDING MEMBERS

In response to several requests, the editor prints below the names of the 49 Melville scholars who are listed in our records as founding members. The Society was first organized in February, 1945. The original members were the following:

Charles R. Anderson, Walter Bezanson, John H. Birss, William Braswell, Philo C. Calhoun, William Charvat, Reginald L. Cook, Merrell R. Davis, Elizabeth Foster, F. Barron Freeman, Howard Freer, James D. Hart, Harrison Hayford, Walter Hendricks, Francis Henshaw, Tyrus Hillway, Keith Huntress, Kenneth Kurtz, Harold A. Larrabee, Jay Leyda, Thomas A. Little, Thomas O. Mabbott, Luther S. Mansfield, F. O. Matthiessen, Tremaine McDowell, Mrs. Henry K. Metcalf, Gordon Mills, Henry A. Murray, Henry A. Myers, Egbert S. Oliver, Mrs. A. D. Osborne, Henry F. Pommer, Lawrence Clark Powell, Robert Price, Richard Purcell, Gordon Roper, Wilbur S. Scott, Merton Sealts, Robert E. Spiller, Willard Thorp, Howard P. Vincent, B. M. Wainger, Gilmore Warner, R. E. Watters, Henry W. Wells, Viola C. White, Stanley T. Williams, Napier Wilt, and Nathalia Wright.

NOTES

Typee, with an introduction by C. Merton Babcock, will be published in January by Harper and Brothers in the Modern Classics series.

Recently published: *In Pursuit of Moby Dick*, by Gerhard Friedrich, as Pendle Hill Pamphlet No. 98 (Wallingford, Pennsylvania: Pendle Hill, 1958). Price, 35 cents. The author, a German Quaker now teaching at Cedar Crest College, last year published a poem on Melville ("Postscript to *Moby Dick*") in *The Map within the Mind* (New York: Exposition Press, 1957).

Now available to American purchasers: *Die Funktion des Ich-Erzahlers in Herman Melville's Roman "Moby-Dick,"* by Hans Helmcke (Munich: Max Hueber, 1957). This is Volume I of the Mainz Contributions to American Studies. Price not quoted.

An extremely attractive leatherbound edition of *Moby-Dick* is included as Number 581 of the Collins New Leather Classics, published by Wm. Collins Sons and Company of London (1953). Price, $3.00. The New York office of the Collins firm is at 425 Fourth Avenue.

No less than 122 different modern editions of *Moby-Dick* are in the collection of H. Howard Hughes of Texas Wesleyan College. Of these, 50 are American and 15 British, with others in Danish (one), Dutch (two), Finnish (one), French (12), German (nine), Italian (four), Japanese (six), Norwegian (two), Portuguese (two), Spanish (15), Swedish (one), and Vietnamese (one).

Marjorie Kimball McCarquadale of the University of Houston delivered a paper on "The Desperate Man, Today's Hero, and Pierre, His Desperate Ancestor" at the regional (South-Central) M.L.A. meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on November 8.

Edward Fiess read a paper on "'The 'Gees' and Other Evidence of Melville's Attitude on Race" at the fall meeting of the American Studies Association of New York State. The session was held at Cornell University on November 1.

The Grove Press (795 Broadway, New York 3, N. Y.) now includes among its paperbound Evergreen Books the following Melville titles. *The Confidence Man* ($1.75), *Omoo* ($1.95), *Pierre* ($2.45), and *White Jacket* ($1.95). It also publishes Charles Olson's *Call Me Ishmael* ($1.25).

Melville par lui-meme, recently published in Paris under the authorship of Jean-Jacques Mayoux, professor at the Sorbonne, contains reproductions of seven pictures from the display in the Melville Room at Pittsfield. The book deals with autobiographical elements in Melville's works. Many other illustrations are included as well.

Dr. Henry A. Murray is reported visiting Russia, but he expects to return in time for the annual meeting.

The U. S. Hydrographic Office has recently reissued the well-known Matthew Fontaine Maury whale chart. It may be obtained by writing to the headquarters of that Office in Suitland, Maryland.

Dues may be sent to the acting secretary (Tyrus Hillway, Colorado State College, Greeley, Colorado) during the next few weeks or may be paid at the annual meeting. Active membership, $2 per year; associate membership (*Newsletter* only), $1.

THE *Melville Society* NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY FOR MEMBERS OF THE Melville Society, a group of literary scholars and others interested in the life and works of Herman Melville. The Society seeks to facilitate the exchange of information among its members, to stimulate the study of Melville's life and works, and to encourage literary, historical, and bibliographical research. Membership is two dollars per year and includes all services of the Society. Associate membership (non-voting) is one dollar per year and includes all issues of the Newsletter. Address Tyrus Hillway, acting secretary, at Colorado State College, Greeley, Colorado.